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 TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7578
 INFO RUESLZ/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ 292
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E.O. 11652: N/A
 TAGS: FPOR, UN, BL
 SUBJ: DEATH OF FORMER BOLIVIAN PRESIDENT: CIRCULAR LETTER.

UN HAS CIRCULATED TO ALL PERMANENT MISSIONS LETTER FROM BOLIVIAN PERM REP CONCERNING DEATH OF FORMER BOLIVIAN PRESIDENT JUAN JOSE TOYRES. EXCERPTS FROM THE LETTER ARE TRANSMITTED BELOW:

SIR,

AT A MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL HELD ON 11 MAY 1976 IT WAS THE PAINFUL DUTY OF THIS MISSION TO ANNOUNCE THE ASSASSINATION OF THE AMBASSADOR OF BOLIVIA TO THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE, GENERAL JOAQUIN ZENTENO ANAYA, FORMER MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC AND FORMER COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE NATION, WHICH TOOK PLACE IN PARIS ON 11 MAY. THE TREACHEROUS NATURE OF THE CRIME OBLIGED US TO PROTEST PUBLICLY AGAINST THIS ACT OF TERRORISM WHICH PLUNGED THE BOLIVIAN FAMILY INTO MOURNING AND WAS AN EXPRESSION OF THE POLICY OF FRATRICIDAL VIOLENCE WHICH IS FRIGHTENING PEOPLE IN ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD.

TODAY I MUST INFORM YOU OFFICIALLY OF THE CRIME WHICH TOOK THE LIFE OF GENERAL JUAN JOSE TORRES IN THE CITY OF BUENOS AIRES, IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARGENTINA, ON 2 JUNE 1976. AFTER BEING KIDNAPPED BY AN EXTREMIST COMMANDO, HE WAS FOUND DEAD UNDER A BRIDGE, HAVING BEEN SHOT SEVERAL TIMES IN THE HEAD.

ALL BOLIVIA WAS DEEPLY SADDENED BY THIS DEATH OF A FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE COUNTRY, WHO WAS PREVIOUSLY COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE NATION. THE CONDEMNATION HAS BEEN GENERAL AND COMPLETE.

AS A RESULT OF THESE CRIMES, WHICH WE ALL DEPLORE, MY COUNTRY HAS BECOME THE VICTIM OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONSPIRACY OF UNSUSPECTED SCOPE. ALTHOUGH WE BOLIVIANS ALWAYS STRUGGLE COURAGEOUSLY AS REGARDS OUR INTERNAL AFFAIRS, WE HAVE NEVER RESORTED TO POLITICAL CRIMES AS A MEANS OF GAINING POWER.

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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
 U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
 Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
 (X) Release () Excise () Deny
 Exemption(s):
 () In Part (X) In Full
 () Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to
 Date Declassify on Reason

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P2 I WOULD REQUEST YOU TO CIRCULATE TO THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATES MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS THIS DENUNCIATION, WHICH ENTAILS THE PROTEST OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BOLIVIA, OF THE BARBARIC ASSASSINATION OF THE AFOREMENTIONED FORMER HIGH OFFICIAL OF THE STATE AS A MANIFESTATION OF A SPURIOUS TERRORIST WAR.

ACCEPT, SIR, THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

(SIGNED) MARIO R. GUTIERREZ
AMBASSADOR
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

SHERER

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